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Department of State TELEGRAM

Saigon 8984 10-19-67

CONFIDENTIAL 705

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08984 191115Z

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ACTION EA-19

INFO SAL-01, IO-21, AID-30, GPM-03, SC-01, RSC-01, USIA-12, H-02, NSC-10, L-03,
INR-07, P-04, CIA-04, DOD-01, SP-02, SS-20, NSAE-00, RSR-01, /142 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Sean Ryan DATE 1/21/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 190930Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9149
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4610
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2799
AMCONSUL DANANG 1149

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8984

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN: DARLAC

REF: SAIGON 8122

1. THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN DARLAC IS BEING CONDUCTED WITHOUT NOTICEABLE ENTHUSIASM, WHERE 16 CANDIDATES ARE VYING FOR THE TWO VIETNAMESE SEATS. (THE MONTAGNARD MINORITY SEAT IN DARLAC IS UNOPPOSED.) SEVEN PUBLIC MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED, THREE IN BAN ME THUOT CITY AND ONE IN EACH OF THE FOUR DISTRICTS. FIVE OF THE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD AS OF OCT 18. PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS REPORT

(1)

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 8984 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THAT ALMOST ALL THE CANDIDATES HAVE APPEARED BUT THAT THE AUDIENCES WERE SMALL. THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LAC THIEN DISTRICT HAD TO BE CANCELLED AS THERE WERE NO HELICOPTERS

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Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 08984 191115Z

AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT THE CANDIDATES. THE FINAL MEETING WILL BE HELD OCT 20 IN THE BAN ME THUOT STADIUM.

2. THE CANDIDATES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TWO PROGRAMS BROADCAST FROM THE LOCAL RADIO STATION. A THIRD HAS BEEN SCHEDULED BUT WILL PROBABLY BE CANCELLED BY THE CANDIDATES

THEMSELVES AS MANY ARE REPORTED TO FEEL THAT TWO PROGRAMS ARE ENOUGH. CAMPAIGN POSTERS AND HANDBILLS ARE BEING POSTED AND DISTRIBUTED IN BAN ME THUOT IN AT LEAST THREE OF THE FOUR DISTRICTS, BUT THERE ARE NOT AS MANY AS TO BE SEEN AS DURING THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONCAMPAIGN.

3. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS AGAIN MAKING THE NECESSARY SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION. HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT LAUNCHED AS ACTIVE A GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CAMPAIGN AS BEFORE THE SEPT 3 ELECTIONS. THE SENIOR PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS ARE RELIEVED THAT THIS IS THE LAST ELECTION

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 1OIR C O N F I D E N T I A L
SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR, BUT THEY NOTE WITH A CERTAIN FATIGUE AND FATALISM THAT PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE DUE IN THE SPRING OF 1968.

4. THE MOST COMMON THEMES MENTIONED IN THE CAMPAIGN LEAFLETS BEING DISTRIBUTED BY THE CANDIDATES IN DARLAC ARE: REDUCE CORRUPTING, ELEMINATE SOCIAL INJUSTICE, ACHIEVE PEACE IN FREEDOM. ONLY ONE POSTER MENTIONS THE NEED TO DEFEAT THE COMMUNISTS; THERE IS ONE CANDIDATE CALLING FOR PE_ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO END THE SUFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE. OTHER COMMON CAMPAIGN THEMES ARE: PROTECT NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, BUILD DEMOCRACY, IMPROVE VIETNAMESE-MONTAGNARD RELATIONS, AND ASSIST WAR VICTIMS AND SOLDIERS. SEVERAL OF THE CANDIDATES DID NOT DETAIL SPECIFIC GOALS BUT MERELY STATED THEIR INTENTION TO WORK FOR THE PEOPLE.
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